Stage-III (Tehri Pumped Storage Plant-1000 MW): The essential works of Tehri PSP (Head Race Tunnels, intakes, Transformer hall etc.) have already been completed along with the execution of Tehri Stage-I works. As per the investment approval accorded by the Government on 18.7.2006, this project is scheduled to be commissioned in the year 2010-11.

Use of power connections for domestic use by farmers

1428. SHRI DHARAMPAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instruction to Government of Uttar Pradesh to allow small farmers residing within a radius of 5-10 mts. and having holding upto five-six acres to utilize their power connection for domestic use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. Distribution of electricity is a licensed activity which is regulated by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reconstitution of State Electricity Boards

†1429. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have fixed any time schedule for the reconstitution of State Electricity Boards;

(b) the number of States where State Electricity Boards have so far been reconstituted; and

(c) what is Government's policy for those States which have not constituted State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Before enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003, various States had enacted State Electricity Reforms Acts which provided for reorganization of their State Electricity Boards (SEB).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Section 172 (a) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the SEB shall be deemed to be the State Transmission Utility (STU) and a licensee under the provisions of the Act for a period of one year from the appointed date, i.e. 10th June, 2003. Section 172 (a) further provides that the State Government may, by notification, authorise the State Electricity Board (SEB) to continue to function as the State Transmission Utility or a licensee for such further period beyond the period of one year of the provisions of the Act coming into force, as may be mutually decided by the Central Government and the State Government.

So far, 12 States have reorganized their SEBs.

Nine States have requested the Central Government to agree for extension of time for their respective SEBs to continue as the STU and a licensee and extension of time has been agreed to. In addition, the State of Assam has requested for extension of time for their SEB to continue with the limited function of only trading and this request has also been agreed to.

Electrification of villages in Rajasthan

1430. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Rajasthan under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana so far.

(b) whether target fixed for 2005-06 has been achieved.

(c) whether any target has been fixed for electrification of villages in the States during 2006-07.

(d) if so, the details thereof including the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(e) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent proposals in the above context;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) by when Government would approve the amount for the same?